

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



30¢ 163
DEC 02457



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

**THE
KINGPIN
IS BACK,
WEBHEAD!**

AND **THIS**
TIME, THERE'S
NO WAY ON
EARTH TO
STOP HIM!!



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ACTION**
IN THE MIGHTY
**MARVEL
MANNER!!**



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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

LEN WEIN
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MIKE ESPOSITO
EMBELLISHER

GLYNIS WEIN
COLORIST

JOE ROSEN
LETTERER



"COME ON ALONG AND TAKE THE BUS,
AND LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US!!
OR SO A CERTAIN JAUNTY JINGLE
GOES--"

--AND YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-
HOOD WALL-CRAWLER HAS
NEVER EXACTLY BEEN ONE TO
TURN DOWN AN OPEN INVITATION...
TO ANYTHING!

DADDY--
LOOK!
THERE'S A MAN
ON THE ROOF
OF THAT BUS!

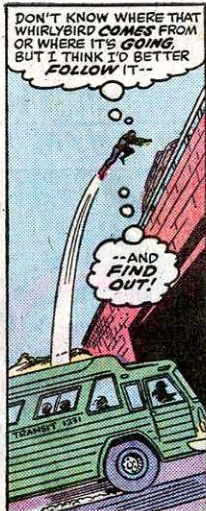
MAN, THIS IS MORE
LIKE IT! SWINGING
AROUND TOWN ON A
COCKAMAMIE WEB
ALL THE TIME CAN
GET TO BE A
STRAIN ON THE
ARMS!

YEAH, BEING
CHAUFFEURED
AROUND THIS
WAY COULD GET
TO BE A HABIT--

--IF THE
EXHAUST
FLAMES
DIDN'T MAKE
ME SO NAUSEOUS!

ALL THE KINGPIN'S MEN!

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LOOKS LIKE THIS IS MY DAY FOR HITCHING FREE RIDES. DOESN'T IT?

GUESS MY BEST BET IS TO JUST *SIT* HERE UNTIL THIS BIRD LANDS, AND THEN... EH?

CRIPES! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN--! IT'S MY FAIR-WEATHER "FRIENDS" AGAIN!*

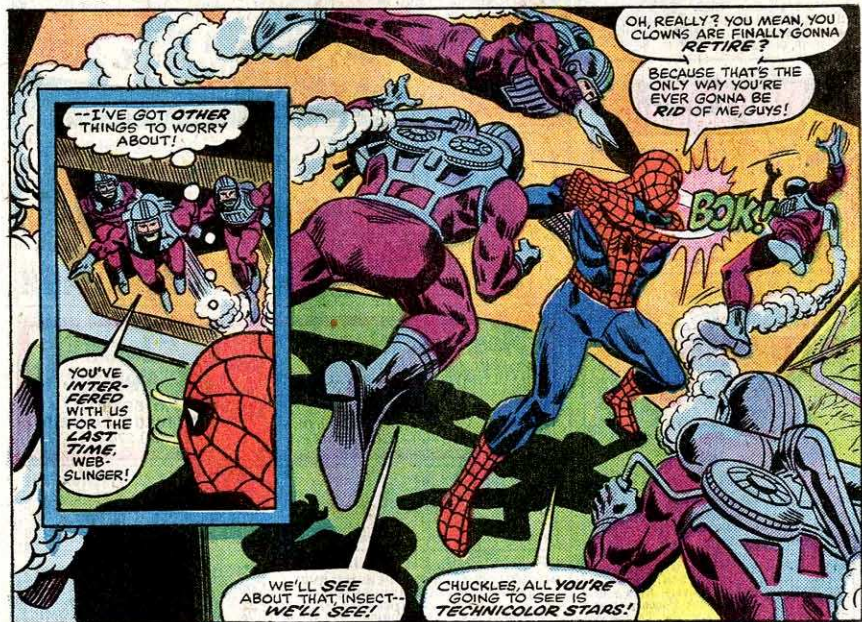
I JUST HOPE THAT *THIS* RIDE DOESN'T WIND UP AS A DEAD END...

...FOR YOURS TRULY!

C'MON, NUMBER 17-- LET'S MOVE IT!

*SPIDEY HAS ENCOUNTERED THESE COSTUMED CUT-UPS BEFORE BACK IN ISSUES #153, 154 & 160.--LEN.

DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE CREEPS ARE PLANNING TO DO, BUT FROM THE WAY MY TRUSTY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING--



--I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT!

YOU'VE INTERFERED WITH US FOR THE LAST TIME, WEB-SLINGER!

OH, REALLY? YOU MEAN, YOU CLOWNS ARE FINALLY GONNA RETIRE?

BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE EVER GONNA BE RID OF ME, GUYS!

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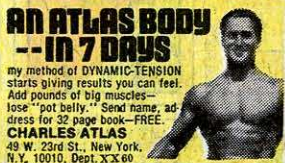
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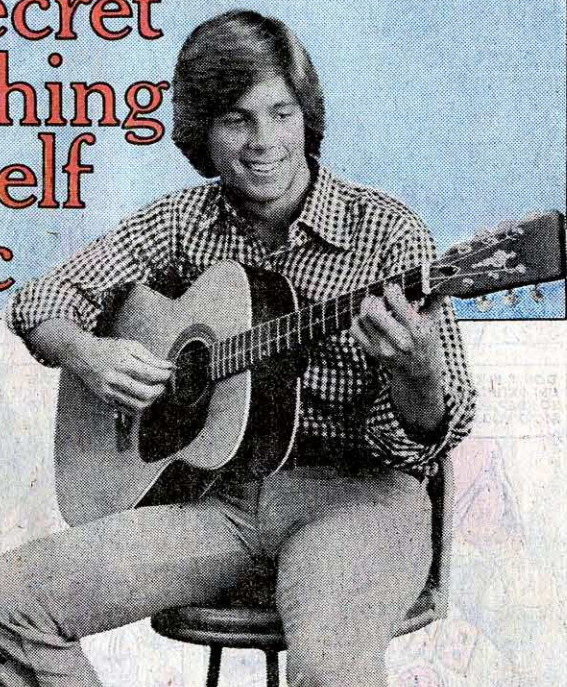
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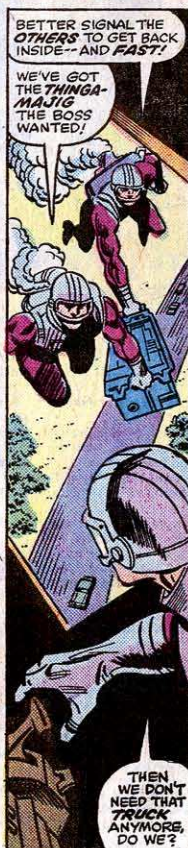
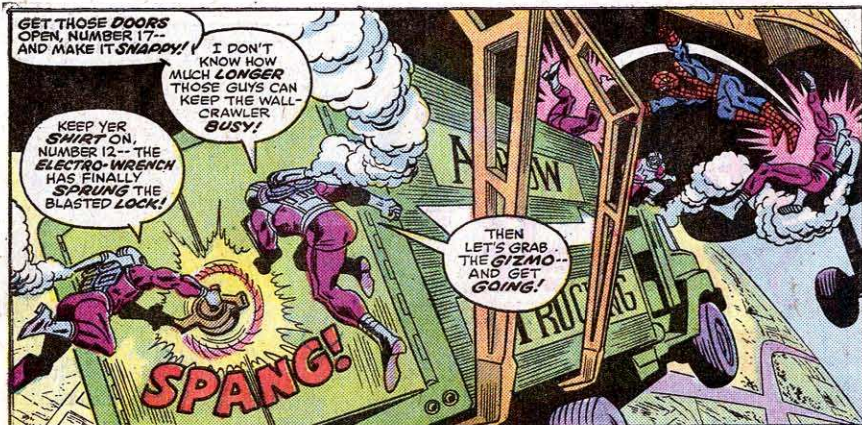
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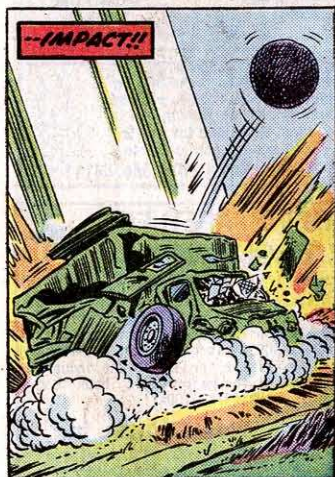
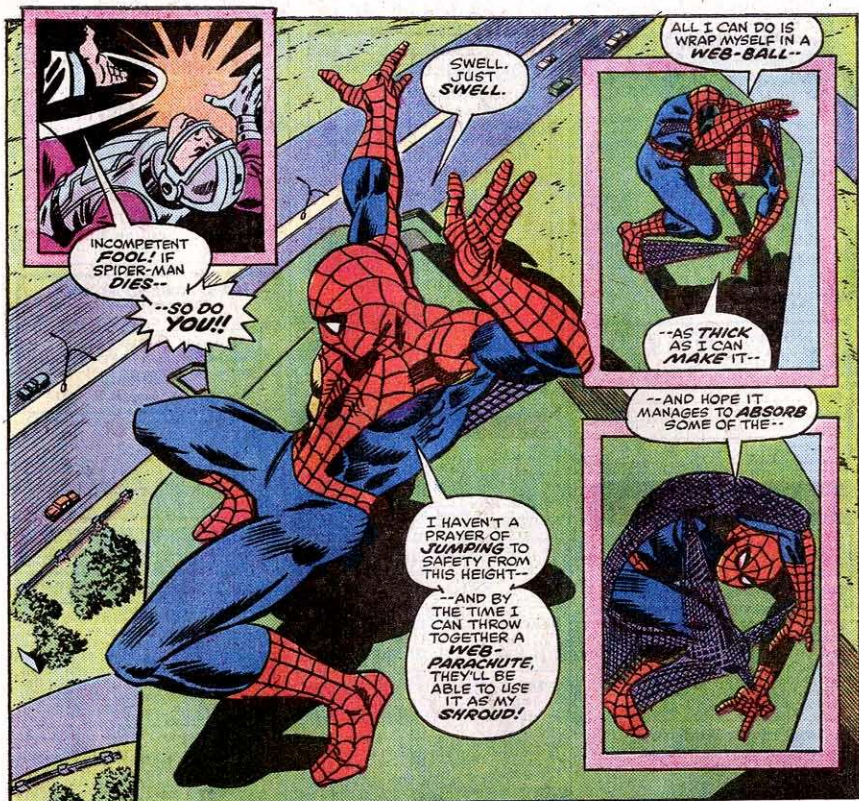
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SOON AFTER, BACK IN MANHATTAN...

NOT SURE *WHAT* THOSE CLOWNS
IN THE COPTER WERE *AFTER*--
BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT
THAT *NOW*.

RIGHT NOW,
I'M GOING TO
BUY SOME
FLOWERS--
AND TRY TO
PATCH THINGS
UP WITH A
CERTAIN
*MARY JANE
WATSON*.

C'MON, PRETTY LADY--
OPEN THE *DOOR*.

I'VE GOT A LOT
I WANT TO *SAY*
TO YOU.

NO
ANSWER.

WELL, MAYBE
SHE'S IN THE
SHOWER...OR
MAYBE SHE'S *DRYING*
HER HAIR...
OR MAYBE...

...MAYBE
SHE'S JUST
NOT *HOME!*

THE WALK BACK TO PETER PARKER'S
CHELSEA APARTMENT IS A VERY LONG
AND *LOVELY* ONE...

SHE *LOVES* ME...
SHE *LOVES* ME *NOT*...
SHE *LOVES* ME...
SHE *LOVES* ME...

...NOT?

AW, WHAT DOES A
BUNCH OF STUPID
FLOWERS KNOW,
ANYWAY?

FACE IT PARKER, YOU
BROUGHT THIS ON *YOUR-
SELF*--ALWAYS LEAVING
M.J. HANGING, WHILE YOU
RUN OFF TO PLAY *NERO!*

YOU CAN'T *BLAME*
HER FOR PREFERRING
FLASH THOMPSON'S
COMPANY TO YOURS.

AT LEAST
FLASH
IS
ALWAYS
AROUND.

EVENTUALLY, YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO
MAKE A *CHOICE*,
MISTER--

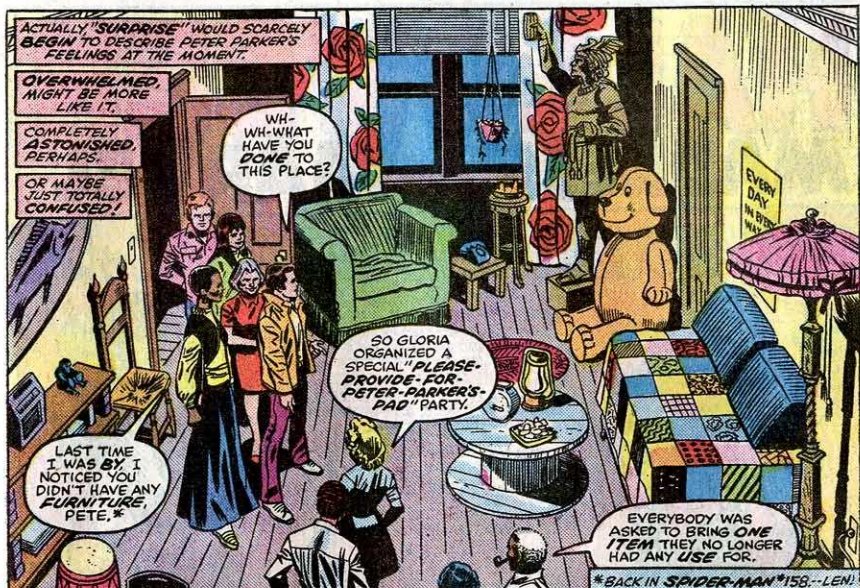
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OR THE
SPIDER--

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POOR ROBBIE WAS ONLY TRYING TO **HELP**-- BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO **RESOLVE** FOR MYSELF.



MY **LOVELIFE!** WHAT A **JOKE!** I NEVER **HAVE** HAD MUCH LUCK WITH THE **OPPOSITE SEX**. HAVE I?

BETTY BRANT IS MARRIED TO **NED LEEDS** AND LIVING IN **PARIS** NOW.

GWEN STACY IS MANY MONTHS **DEAD**, MURDERED BY THE **GREEN GOBLIN**.

AND **MARY JANE WATSON** IS... IS... IS WHAT?



JUST EXACTLY WHAT **IS** OUR RELATIONSHIP, ANYWAY?

HOW DOES **MJ FEEL** ABOUT ME... AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DO I **FEEL** ABOUT **HER**? ARE WE REALLY **RIGHT** FOR... **EH?**

SOMEBODY **ELSE** HAS COME UP ON THE **ROOF!**



MAYBE **MARY JANE** FINALLY **NOTICED** MY ABSENCE AND CAME **LOOKING** FOR ME--

--IN WHICH CASE, THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME AND PLACE FOR US TO **DISCUSS** OUR...

OH.

SOMEHOW, IT'S REALLY **PEACEFUL** UP HERE... ISN'T IT, **LIZ?**

IT'S **PEACEFUL** FOR ME **ANYWHERE**, HARRY... SO LONG AS I'M WITH **YOU**.



HUNK-- LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE A LOT MORE **SERIOUS** BETWEEN **LIZ ALLEN** AND **HARRY OSBORN** THAN I'D **THOUGHT**.

WELL, GOOD FOR **THEM!** AFTER WHAT THEY'VE EACH **BEEEN** **THRU**, THEY DESERVE ALL THE **HAPPINESS** THEY CAN FIND.



MAYBE **ROBBIE** WAS **RIGHT**, AFTER ALL.

IT'S NICE TO KNOW THINGS ARE **WORKING** THEMSELVES OUT FOR **SOMEONE!**

THE NEXT 24 HOURS ARE RATHER HECTIC ONES FOR OUR WALL-CRAWLING WONDER, BUT WHEN THE SUN SETS, ONCE MORE ON THE UNPLEASANTLY-POLLUTED ISLE OF MANHATTAN...



BROTHER, IT HAS BEEN ONE **HECK** OF A DAY! FIRST, ALL THAT CRAZINESS WITH MAYOR BEAME AND THE **TARANTULA** *--

--AND THEN ALL THE TIME I SPENT AS **PETER PARKER** CHECKING WITH **CON EDISON** TO FIND OUT IF ANYONE HAS BEEN USING AN **UNUSUAL** AMOUNT OF **ELECTRICITY** LATELY.

*AS DRAMATICALLY DISPLAYED IN ALL ITS GLORY IN THE FIRST ACTION-PACKED ISSUE OF **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**, ON SALE ALMOST EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
--LEN.

FROM WHAT I COULD TELL AT A **GLANCE**, THAT MECHANISM THOSE HIJACKING COPTER-JOCKIES STOLE REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY TO **ACTIVATE** IT--



--AND THE ONLY PLACE THAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN USING MORE **POWER** THAN IT SHOULD NEED IS THIS SUPPOSEDLY UNUSED OLD **MOVIE STUDIO** OVER IN THE WEST 50'S!



WHOEVER IS **BEHIND** THAT GANG ISN'T REALLY VERY **BRIGHT**--

--USING THAT MUCH ENERGY BROUGHT ME HERE LIKE THE **MOTH** TO THE PROVERBIAL **FLAME**!



UNLESS, OF COURSE, THEY REALLY **WANTED** ME TO COME HERE--



--AND UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S ONLY **ONE** WAY TO FIND THAT OUT FOR **SURE**!



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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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"WHAT WE REALLY MEANT WAS..." DEPT.: In the letters column of SPIDER-MAN #160, responding to a missive from Larry Stefanich, your faithful armadillo gave a detailed dissertation on the Web-slinger's wondrous Spider-sense and its workings, figuring that would be the final word on the subject. Thus, you can imagine our surprise when we suddenly found ourselves literally bombarded with letters taking us to task for seeming inconsistencies in our explanation.

For the sake of posterity (and what's left of our rapidly-graying hair), let's try to clear up this matter once and for all. Now, when we explained that our hero's Spider-sense warns him not of his enemies, but of imminent danger from any source, we meant that to be the situation effective as of that moment. There really isn't much we can do about Spidey sagas of the past that contradict our statement (for themselves for that matter). At best, we can hope to prevent those inconsistencies from occurring again in the future, and that's precisely what we're gonna try to do.

So, please, Faithful Ones, no more missives reminding us that events in SPIDEY #46 or #53 or #117 don't jibe with our statement. We'll all just have to learn to live with them, and do our best to see that they don't happen again.

Okay, True Believer?

Okay!

Len:

The only fitting place to comment on a continued story is at its end. The current Doc Ock/Spidey/Hammerhead adventure is presumably finished with SPIDER-MAN #159. On the whole, it was better written, contained more surprises, and was generally superior to the two previous sequences involving this trio. Still, I find Andru's art unequal to the task of adequately presenting Ock in all his six-armed power. Somehow, Andru is unable to convey the fluidity and force that typified Romita's version of Doctor Octopus.

Hey, isn't it about time Peter Parker obtained some furnishings for his flat?

Ted Longstreth

4020 Seabridge Ave., Orlando, FL 32809

Is this issue soon enough for you, Ted? We've been planning to furnish Pete's pad for several months now (just check out Glory Grant's comment to Pete on page 6, panel 5 of SPIDER-MAN #158), and we think Lively Len and Rip-roarin' Ross have done the job in style.

What do you think, Effendi?

Friends:

SPIDER-MAN #159 wasn't bad at all. So what if the fights were utterly ridiculous? Who cares if the scene of Doc Ock pinning the cooks to the wall with knives was absurd? The main thing was, the story was the best in quite a while.

We'll close with just one request. Sooner or later, Spidey will meet up with Doc Ock for the Big Fight. Just this once, will you please have Doc decorate the wall with Spidey's face?

S.T. & C.

18734 Stahelin, Detroit, MI 48219

Dear Len,

Gee, that Spidey sure is a jerk. If only he'd quit hounding that poor Doc Ock, I get the impression that everything would be all right. But no, he socks him around, makes him drop Aunt May, sabotages his inventions, and generally makes a nuisance of himself. I wish Doc would drop Spidey off some bridge and change the title of the mag to THE AMAZING DOCTOR OCTOPUS. It has a ring to it.

Kim Thompson

24 Avenue de St. Clement, 34000 Montpellier, France

Boy, when Lively Len began the 3-part Spidey/Doc Ock/Hammerhead extravaganza, he fully intended to make Otto Octavius a slightly more sympathetic character, but so sympathetic that some of you have started rooting for him to win? Sheesh, we never thought it would go quite that far.

Seriously, fellas, have any of you considered the possible repercussions of replacing everybody's favorite wall-crawler with our multi-limbed menace? Doc Ock together with another different super-star every month in MARVEL TEAM-UP, we could tolerate. We might even be able to endure a mag called OTTO OCTAVIUS, THE INCREDIBLE DOCTOR OCTOPUS. But we don't think anybody could live with SIX-ARMED SUPER STORIES for very long...do you?

HTD WEAKLY CAMPAIGN UPDATE #2:

—Unless you've dwelt in a cave for the past six months and have confined your reading strictly to rare, out-of-print editions of Lin Carter novels, you're probably aware that Marvel's feathered fury, HOWARD THE DUCK, has flung his battered hat into this year's presidential sweepstakes. This lemon-hued rectangle contains the second in our series of feeble reports on our wondrous waterfowl's winding woad to the White House.

—TRAGEDY STRIKES DUCK CAMPAIGN; Terre Haute, Ind. (UDI) Danger has become a constant companion to presidential hopefuls, and HTD is no exception. Last week, during the course of a single 30-minute address before the Society of Landlocked Seaweed Enthusiasts here in Terre Haute, eleven separate attempts were made to snuff the Duck. Weapons ranged from a letter-bomb skimmed through the air as a paper plane to an exploding cigar with a nuclear triggering device. Ten of these assassination attempts were abortive. The eleventh—involving a bottle of Crazy Glue, a box of Wheat Thins, and an expandable watchband—irreparably scarred one Milos Pitt, a member of the audience. Pitt, already confined to a wheelchair as a result of his participation in the Nixon campaign of '72, found himself directly in the line of fire and unable to dodge. He later commented bitterly, "Sure wish I'd been wearin' one o' them 'Git Down' buttons. Then the watchband would'a bounced right off." Shucks!



—KRASS KOMMERICALISM KORNER: Yes, you can still attach yourself or your clothing to the Official HTD For President Button pictured above. The price is \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling per button.

—KRASS KOMMERICALISM KORNER, Part Two: If even the button is insufficient to express your fowl ardor, may we recommend our new HTD CAMPAIGN PORTRAIT, produced in association with Magic Mountain Books? Classier than a poster, it's reproduced in subtle sepia on heavy stock, suitable for framing. It, too, is just a buck, plus that inevitable 25¢ for postage and handling. And both the button and portrait are available from Howard's campaign manager:

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(Make all checks payable to Steve; he's still saving up for a copy of HTD #1.) Another report in seven days!

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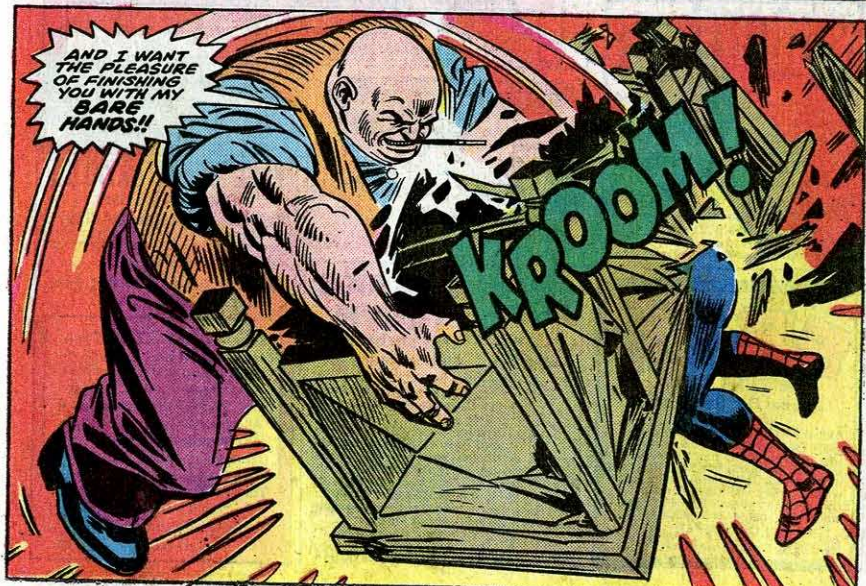
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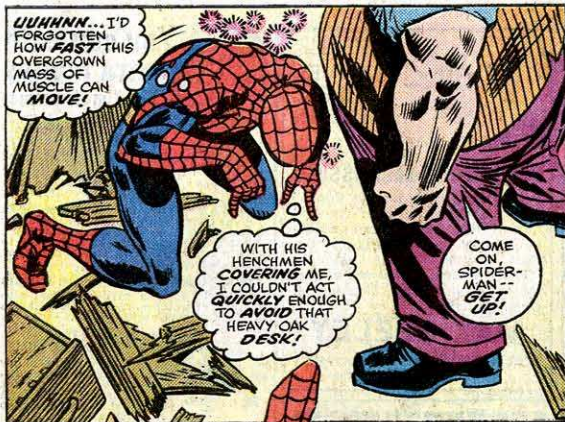
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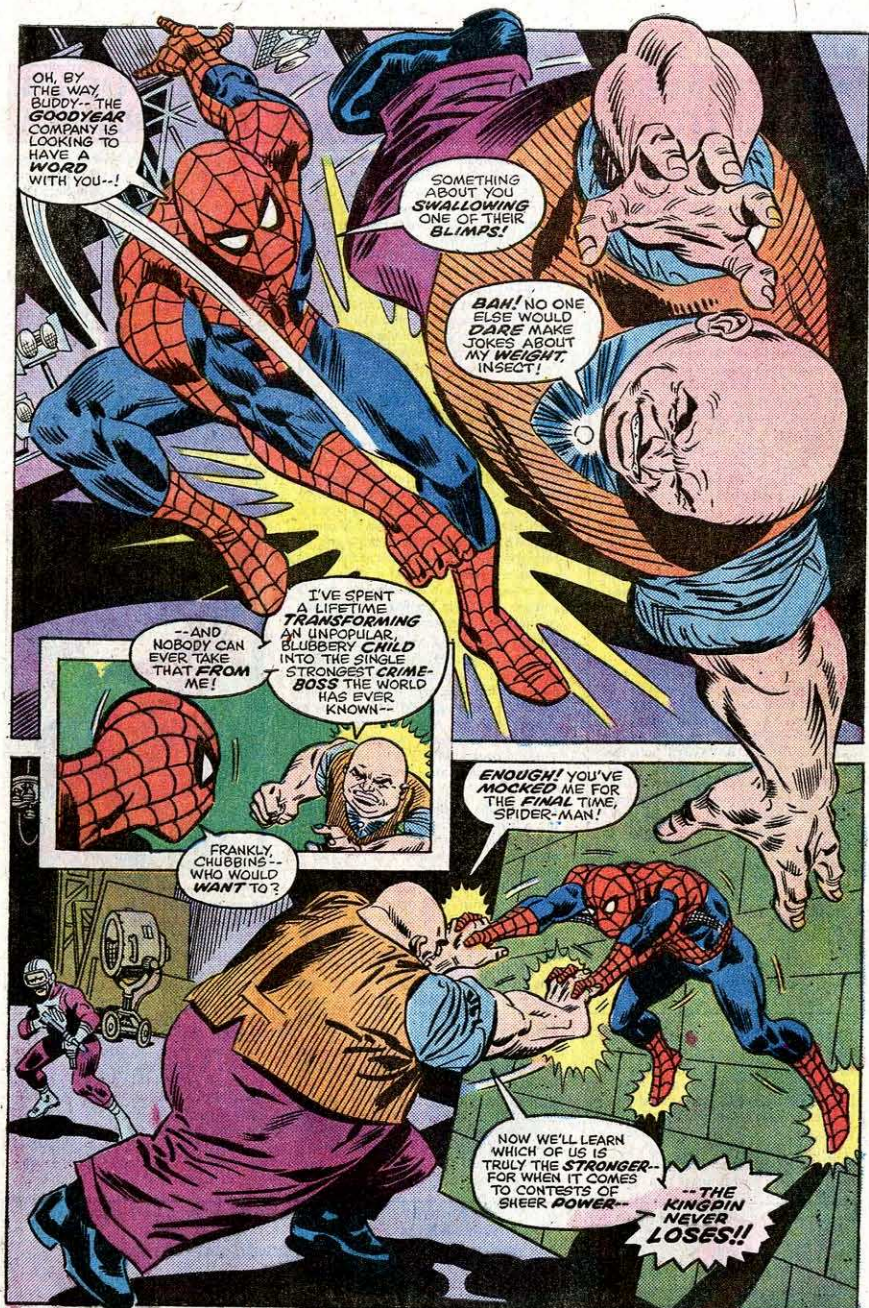
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OH, BY THE WAY, BUDDY-- THE GOODYEAR COMPANY IS LOOKING TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU--!

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU SWALLOWING ONE OF THEIR BLIMPS!

BAH! NO ONE ELSE WOULD DARE MAKE JOKES ABOUT MY WEIGHT, INSECT!

--AND NOBODY CAN EVER TAKE THAT FROM ME!

I'VE SPENT A LIFETIME TRANSFORMING AN UNPOPULAR BLUBBERY CHILD INTO THE SINGLE STRONGEST CRIME-BOSS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN--

FRANKLY, CHUBBINS-- WHO WOULD WANT TO?

ENOUGH! YOU'VE MOCKED ME FOR THE FINAL TIME, SPIDER-MAN!

NOW WE'LL LEARN WHICH OF US IS TRULY THE STRONGER-- FOR WHEN IT COMES TO CONTESTS OF SHEER POWER--

--THE KINGPIN NEVER LOSES!!

A TESTAMENT TO TAPESTRIES TEMPESTUOUS, TALES TITANIC, AND TABLEAUX TREASURED!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Wow! I never thought we'd get so much mail about something that never even appeared in one of our comics! I'm referring, of course, to the avalanche of letters we've received about a certain commercial on television—the one in which I speak up for the Personna razor and blades—which has been all over the tube for the past few months. All of Marveldom Assembled has been bombarding me with the same question, "Why didn't I announce it in the Soapbox so you'd know when and where to see it?" The reason is—I couldn't! I thought it would only be shown for a week or two, and that by the time we could get a notice printed in our mags it would be over. Also, I never know in advance on which program it'll be shown—it seems to be all over the place. But here's a tip—they mostly use it on the major network sports shows. And here's the wildest part of all—remember the part at the end where I jokingly shout "Personna Man!"? Well, so many of you have gotten a charge out of that name that you guessed it—we're thinking of creating a real Personna Man character! And whenever he has a narrow escape, we'll have a refer to it as a "close shave", right? Oh well, that's show biz! Can't write any more now, have to race to the nearest book shop and order a copy of the newest of our "Origins" titles, the big, colorful, third in the series, called: **BRING ON THE BAD GUYS!** Sure, I'm the guy who wrote it, but you know what a nowhere memory I have—I can't wait to find out whether the good guys or the villains win! So, till Howard the Duck is sworn in as our next President, always remember—wherever you go, whomever you're with, whatever you do, the eyes of the world are upon you—so keep the faith, hang loose, and **THINK MARVEL!**

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Two brand new blockbusters are headed your way this month and we're so excited about them, we just naturally have to make their announcement the very first tidbit we serve up! What do you do when a character is so popular that two monthly books featuring his adventures only leave most Marvelites screaming for more? Well, you don't do anything until you're one hundred percent certain that you have a writer/artist team available

who can maintain the same high standards set on the two books already being published. Then—and only then—you come up with a third monthly title that deftly duplicates all the wonderment of the other two. The writer is GERRY CONWAY. The artists are SAL BUSCEMA and MIKE ESPOSITO. The book is called **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**. And if it is somewhat long on title, it's also just as long on the brand of action and thrills that have made Spidey the most popular comics character ever! But we said two blockbusters, right? For the second we have to look 25 years into the future...and to JACK "KING" KIRBY. Assisted by inker/letterer MIKE ROYER, the King has taken the cosmic concepts of the MGM-Stanley Kubrick movie classic, 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and turned them into an off-beat monthly series that's bound to leave you mind-boggled and bedazzled. Yep. Our mammoth Treasury Edition adaptation of the film was only the start! In this all-new, all-original 30¢ comic, Jack expands upon what Kubrick and s-f author Arthur C. Clarke began and weaves a continuing saga that stretches from man's awakening on Earth all the way to his ultimate destiny in the stars. If you crave comics with a difference, this is it!

ITEM! Marvel's Mean Machine continues to roll along on the softball diamonds of Central Park, defeating Viking Press 8 to 7 and easing over Plenum Publishing 21 to 4. Will they keep it up? Will luck and skill continue to prevail? Will the rules committee finally question the presence of a seven feet tall, one thousand pound centerfielder who has green skin and purple pants? Tune in next month, sport fans.

ITEM! As the previous item may clue you, this is being written in the summer, mid-June to be precise. June is traditionally the time of weddings, and, believe it or not, even a mixed-up bunch like the bullpen can sometimes be traditional. So, we have two couples getting married this month: "Humble HOWARD" BENDER, ace letterer of our boisterous British Dept., and his lady JONI REICH plus "Devil-May-Care DOUG" MOENCH and "Dazzling DEBRA" JAMES, long-time teammates already as writer and letterer of our WEREWOLF BY NIGHT book. Congratulations to four very nice folks; best wishes for the future to you all.

ITEM! Coming out at the end of this month from our Black and White dept. is **MARVEL PREVIEW #8** which will feature the long promised adaptation of Phillip Wylie's **GLADIATOR**, under the brand new title of **MAN-GOD**. The original 1930 novel virtually created the prototype for the modern-day super-hero, and for almost a year now, writer/editor ROY THOMAS has been

struggling through various setbacks to finally get it produced in graphic story form. RICH BUCKLER began the artwork, TONY DEZUNIGA completed it; all that's lacking now is your stamp of approval. But once you check it out, we have a hunch that won't be long in coming!

ITEM! If getting ahead in life is your problem (it certainly is your blushing Bullpen's!), September may be just the month for you, because our 1977 Marvel Calendar goes on sale then. Think of the jump that gives you on next year! It also gives you dazzling full-cover illos by JACK KIRBY, JOHN & SAL BUSCEMA, GEORGE PEREZ, GENE COLAN, JOHN ROMITA, JOE SINNOTT and a host of other favorites, plus the wit, cogent comments and mind-teasing Marvel nostalgia quizzes of writer/editor ROY THOMAS. Pick up on it. With all the goodies we've got going in it, it's more than a calendar, it's a whole event!



ITEM! Welcome Wagon time again, good people. If you've been following our CAPT. MARVEL or GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY series (and surely no true believer will admit to not following them), then you've noticed the fine line work of two new inkers in the Bullpen. Say 'hi' to "Timorous TERRY" AUSTIN (of CM) and "Bumpricious BOB" WACEK (who handles GUARDIANS). But don't stop there, because we're also way overdue in extending firm, dry handshakes to "Beaming BETH" BLECKLEY and "Mellow MARY ELLEN" BEVERIDGE, editorial assistants extraordinaire, and to "Nimble NAOMI" BASNER, amiable aid to Operations Vice President "Jolly SALLY" BRODSKY and no small help as catcher on the bullpen softball team. Glad to have the bunch of ya!

Stan Lee
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WHAT MANNER OF NEW UN-NAMED GOD IS THIS YOU WORSHIP, MY FRIEND?

HUSH, SIRE! I-I-I MUST NOT SPEAK OF THE UN-NAMED GOD, OR I WILL BE TURNED TO COSMOS-DUST THIS INSTANT.



WHAT HAVE YE--AND ALL THESE OTHER ASGARDIANS--PLACED SO DILIGENTLY UPON YON GOLDEN ALTAR?

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FOR A TIME, THE WEB-SLINGER FLOATS IN BILLLOWING CLOUDS OF DARKNESS, THEN THE MUFFLED SOUNDS OF ACTIVITY PROBE THRU THE BLACK THAT SURROUNDS HIM--AND DRAW HIM RELUCTANTLY BACK TO THE LIGHT...

"WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE AWARE, SPIDER-MAN."

"I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE HANDS AT YOUR TEMPLES."

"THEY'RE JUST THERE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE WIRING IS PROPERLY ATTACHED."

"AFTER ALL, WE WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO GO WRONG NOW!"

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF LARD-BUTT!

WHY IN BLAZES HAVE YOU STRAPPED ME TO THIS CRAZY GIZMO ANYWAY?

TAKE A LOOK AT THE STILL FORM LYING BESIDE YOU. WALL-CRAWLER--AND PERHAPS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!

YOU SEE, WE ARE GOING TO STEAL THAT WHICH IS MOST DEAR TO YOU--SO THAT HE MIGHT LIVE AGAIN!

IN JUST ONE MOMENT, SPIDER-MAN--WE ARE GOING TO STEAL YOUR LIFE!

**NEXT
ISSUE:**

SEE SPIDER-MAN LITERALLY DYING ON HIS FEET! SEE THE DRAMATIC RETURN OF DR. CURT CONNERS! SEE A BLAZING BATTLE ROYAL IN THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARDS! SEE ACTION LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE IN THE THRILLER WE HAD TO CALL...

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